

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
**Security Committee**

SECOM-D-170

8 April 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Headquarters Engineering Branch,  
RECD/OL

**STATINTL** ATTENTION:

**STATINTL** FROM:   
Executive Secretary

SUBJECT: Air Flow -

**STATINTL**

1. This memorandum is to restate the observation made verbally to your office on 7 April 1980 about the dirt being blown out of the ceiling air ducts and our request that they be cleaned or that adequate filters be installed.

**STATINTL** 2. Background: Room  and  comprise an office combination occupied by the Community Security Group in the spring of 1978 as temporary quarters. As an inner suite there are 8 air ducts and one return vent. They were dirty when we moved in two years ago and they have not been cleaned since.

**STATINTL**

During the summer months of 1978 and 1979 we were discomfited by lack of air flow. Complaints to your office resulted in tests that apparently satisfied your office although there was no change in volume or increased force of air. We were told that the vent that feeds this area was "stuck" and could not be opened wider.

There was a continuous stream of soot in the form of small dirty black particles that had to be cleaned up every morning on desks and table tops.

Eyes became irritated and throats sore.

3. Current Situation: On Friday, 4 April 1980, the air flow came on with a much greater force than witnessed at any time in the past two years. The suite of offices was treated to a veritable soot storm. When it had not abated by late Monday, 7 April, I went to your office

I found your observations interesting. You mentioned that the people next door (recently reoccupied) had observed the poor air flow and arrangements had been made to turn the flow back on. Obviously the vent that had been "stuck" for two years in the 12-C components of the air system was unstuck. The subsequent wind storm was responsible for disturbing the accumulation of dirt that had built up over the years and our soot problem was the inevitable consequence.

I appreciated your observation that it was obvious that the dirt we now work in resulted from dirty ducts and vents. I agree with you that they are visibly dirty and would estimate that the return air vent is at least 30% blocked with a visible accumulation of dust and dirt.

I acknowledge that the solution to our problem is not an engineering one and rests in the hands of the building manager. And while I appreciate your offer to take corrective measures within your control, I do not believe that the solution rests in turning off the air so that the soot won't blow.

To cut off the air flow might solve the soot problem but it compels us to face another summer in an interior office without adequate (inspite of the tests results this is a very uncomfortable office in the summer) ventilation.

Your statement was interesting that the obvious solution, i.e., cleaning the vents and ducts, has little chance of success because of lack of response by responsible people to your previous requests. However, I petition you to again seek redress of GSA who apparently has the charge of keeping the building clean.

In that connection I would like to relate the results of my call to the Building Managers Office which you suggested may be a proper approach. I called and spoke to a  STATINTL

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[redacted] He listened to the problem and said that his clearances had not yet come through, and that he would need an escort to come to the office since he could not yet come into the building. I agreed to escort him for a first hand look at the problem but he elected to first discuss the matter with others in his office who would not be available until 8 April. He indicated that he might consult with you. [redacted] sounded reasonable and I'm sure he will follow through. Would you be kind enough to provide him the benefits of your observations in support of our claim that conditions in this office are less than desirable. Would you also encourage him to support whatever action is necessary to get corrective cleaning done.

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As a final step, I will write and attach a copy of this memorandum to the Agency Health and Safety Officer, providing them a sample of the soot for possible analysis and consideration as a potential health hazard.

Perhaps if we all work together, Building Engineers, Building Managers, Health and Safety officers and occupants we can arrive at a solution before we all disappear under a mound of dirt.

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## Distribution:

Orig - Addressee  
 STATINTL 1 - [redacted]  
 1 - [redacted]  
 1 - SECOM Subject  
 1 - SECOM Chrono

STATINTL SECOM/[redacted] (4/9/80)